

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03690 041120Z

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SUBJECT: SOVIET DEMARCHE TO JORDAN

1. JUNE 2 IN DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI, HE MENTIONED THAT MY SOVIET COLLEAGUE, VORONIN, HAD JUST BEEN IN TO SEE HIM TO REPORT ON KISSINGER/GROMYKO MEETING AT GENEVA EARLY LAST MONTH.

2. RIFAI WAS CLEARLY AMUSED BY THE SOVIET POSITION WHICH HE FOUND VERY UNFLEXIBLY PRESENTED BY VORONIN. HE WAS READ A LONG INSTRUCTION IN WHICH IT WAS MENTIONED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO GET THE U.S. TO INVITE THE PLO TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. RIFAI SAID IMMEDIATELY, DID NOT THE SOVIETS REALIZE THIS WAS CONTRARY TO THE INITIAL AGREEMENT ON GENEVA THAT ALL THE MEMBERS HAD TO AGREE ON ADDITIONS TO THE CONFERENCE, NOT JUST THE CO-CHAIRMEN. VORONIN SAID HE THOUGHT THAT CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES NOW MADE IT NECESSARY FOR CO-CHAIRMEN TO ACT. RIFAI SAID THAT SUCH MAY BE TRUE, BUT IF CO-CHAIRMEN ACTED AND ISRAEL DID NOT AGREE, YOU COULD NOT HAVE A GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE ADDED, HE WAS SURE THE ISRAELIS COULD NOT BE MADE TO COME TO A CONFERENCE WITH THE PLO PRESENT. VORONIN THEN SAID THAT PERHAPS THE PLO COULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND AT A LATER TIME.

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 03690 041120Z

3. VORONIN THEN CONTINUED READING HIS INSTRUCTIONS

MAKING THE POINT THAT GENEVA SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PREPARED. RIFAI SAID TO HIM THAT'S A CHANGE IN THE SOVIET POSITION ISN'T IT? VORONIN THEN REREAD HIS INSTRUCTIONS, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY RELUCTANTLY ADMITTED THE SOVIETS HAD SHIFTED THEIR GROUND. RIFAI IN ONE OF HIS USUAL FLIGHTS OF REDUCTIO AD ABSURDUM THEN SAID IF THE CONFERENCE WERE WELL PREPARED, THEN THERE WOULD BE NOTHING TO BE RESOLVED AND IT REALLY NEED NOT MEET.

4. FINALLY VORONIN SAID THAT THE U.S. HAD AGREED THAT WHILE THE PLO SHOULD NOT BE INVITED NOW, THE "PALESTINIANS" MIGHT BE PRESENT AT A LATER TIME. RIFAI POINTED OUT THAT THE SOVIET INSTRUCTIONS THEMSELVES HAD CAREFULLY DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN THE PALESTINIANS AND THE PLO. VORONIN AT FIRST ATTEMPTED TO ASSURE RIFAI THAT IT WAS ALL THE SAME SINCE THE RABAT CONFERENCE. RIFAI THEN POINTED OUT THAT NEITHER ISRAEL OR THE U.S. HAD BEEN AT RABAT AND THAT HE WAS SURE THERE WAS A VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO WHICH EVEN THE SOVIET INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN CAREFUL TO REFLECT, AT LEAST IN THE USE OF THE TERMS.

5. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM POINTING OUT THE APPARENT DIFFICULTIES MY SOVIET COLLEAGUE IS EXPERIENCING IN DEALING WITH RIFAI, ABOVE IS REPORTED TO MAKE CLEAR RATHER DEEP-SEATED FEELING HELD BY RIFAI ABOUT THE FUTILITY OF GOING TO GENVEA.
PICKERING

SECRET

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